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COUNTRY COMMUNIST CHINA

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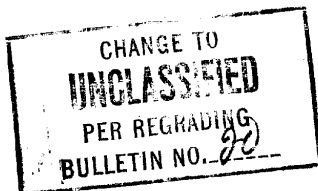
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CPW Report No. 39 -- COMMUNIST CHINA

(Sept. 8-14, 1952)

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SUMMARY

Despite repeated illustrations of Russian leadership, pressure is necessary to get Chinese-Changchun Railway workers to accept Soviet techniques. Encouragement for those doubting Soviet superiority in building and operating railroads comes from admission that "poor construction" forced the closing of part of the new Chengtu-Chungking Railway.

Extravagant claims of Chinese victories and American defeats still are interlaced with charges of American perfidy at Kojé, and at Panmunjon, which is used as a "passageway for special agents." Nothing is said of Panmunjon's use by Communist soldiers as a passageway to freedom. Government action in taking over the Southwest silk industry might reflect Russian needs for cheap Chinese silk in her war industries, but the ability of accountants to find additional capital after courses to "reform their thinking" is not so easy to explain.

The first in a series of long speeches by East China officials reveal moves to expand Party controls, but also concern at lack of peasant enthusiasm for the dictatorship of the proletariat. After all, before the Sino-Soviet partnership, Mao's Communist drive was based on the peasantry. Further peasant dissatisfaction is apparent in refusal to report bumper crops, and need of production inspectors for protection against "reactionaries and lawless landlords."

Usual reports of farming achievements by People's Liberation Army units in the border areas are expanded to include successes in the Northeast. It is difficult to see why PLA units would be engaged in agriculture in this highly developed area except as guards for slave labor units. Similarities of the judicial reform movement to the anticorruption drives against businessmen are evident from reports of public accusation meetings, and replacement of conservative judicial personnel with more amenable workers and shop clerks.

Attendance at a public trial of only 2,000 persons seems surprisingly small, while sale by one store of 24,500 copies of Mao's book, but four million other volumes, indicates little enthusiasm for the Communist Sino-Soviet partnership.

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